

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

SECSTATE WASHDC 368

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 2818

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, BEXP, EEWT, SCUL, GE, OEXC, UR, US

SUBJECT: US BICENTENNIAL ACTIVITIES IN U.S.S.R.

REF: BERLIN 5287

1. US BICENTENNIAL ACTIVITIES IN USSR ARE PROCEEDING ON
SCHEDULE AND WE HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF POLICY DECISION CITED
REFTEL.

2 MAJOR USIA BICENTENNIAL EXHIBIT SCHEDULED TO OPEN IN MOSCOW
NOVEMBER ELEVEN. EXHIBIT IS OUTSIDE QUOTA SET IN US-USSR EXHCHANGE
AGREEMENT, AND SOVIETS PLAN NATIONAL EXHIBIT IN US IN 1977.
SEMINARS, STILL IN PLANNING STAGE, TO BE HELD IN CONJUNCTION
WITH EXHIBIT, HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED INFORMALLY WITH SOVIETS.
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3. FILM FESTIVAL, WITH RESTROSPECTIVE SELECTION US CINEMA, SEMINARS, AND VISITS BY FILM PERSONALITIES, HAS BEEN PROPOSED TO SOVIETS FOR JUNE. WHILE SOVIETS LONG HAVE CRITICIZED WHAT, IN THEIR VIEW, IS UNFAVORABLE IMBALANCE IN FILM EXCHANGES, PARTICULARLY COMMERCIAL, WE HAVE NO REASON TO ANTICIPATE THEY WILL DENY OUR REQUEST FOR THEATRE AND OTHER SUPPORT.

4. IN ADDITION, SOVIETS HAVE REFERRED PUBLICLY TO MAJOR BILATERAL CULTURAL EVENTS AS TAKING PLACE IN CONTEXT OF BICENTENNIAL. THESE INCLUDE 1975 VISIT TO US OF BOLSHOI OPERA AND BALLET, 1976 METROPOLITAN AND SOVIET MUSEUMS. SOVIET SCHOLARS WILL PARTICIPATE IN TWO BICENTENNIAL SYMPOSIA IN US.

5. EMBASSY ALSO CARRYING OUT OR PLANNING LESS FORMAL ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE OFFICIAL EXCHANGE AGREEMENT: BICENTENNIAL LECTURE SERIES USING AMERICAN SPECIALISTS AND VOLUNTARY VISITORS, INVITATIONS TO SOVIETS TO VISIT US UNDER IV PROGRAM, BOOK EXHIBITS, FILM SHOWINGS, AND SPORTS EVENTS.

6. IN DISCUSSIONS ON BICENTENNIAL MATTERS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, EMBASSIES MAY DRAW UPON PARAGRAPHS TWO AND THREE, AND FOUR, ABOVE, WHICH ARE SUBJECTS OF FORMAL INTER-GOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT. ITEMS IN PARAGRAPH FIVE, WHICH ARE WORKED OUT LESS FORMALLY WITH LOCAL INSTITUTIONS OR ARE IN PLANNING STATE, SHOULD NOT RPT NOT BE CITED.

7. ABOVE SOVIET COOPERATION ON AMERICAN BICENTENNIAL DOES NOT MEAN BICENTENNIAL IS NOT AN IDEOLOGICAL ISSUE. SOVIETS REVIEWED BICENTENNIAL

EXHIBIT PROPOSAL LONG AND THOROUGHLY AND SOVIET HISTORIANS HAVE CRITICIZED BICENTENNIAL PURPOSE AS PROPAGANDIZING AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE, AMERICAN PATH OF DEVELOPMENT, AND AMERICAN TYPE OF REVOLUTION. (FOR BACKGROUND, SEE USIA RESEARCH REPORT R-20-75, "SOVIET WRITINGS ON THE FIRST AMERICAN REVOLUTION AND THE BICENTENNIAL," DECEMBER 30, 1975).
STOESSEL

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